

Church Finds Wheels Add To Outreach

By CHARLES HAWKES

ARLINGTON, TEXAS

A church bus can be more than just a vehicle to haul persons to and from church, camps, and other related activities.

Tate Springs Baptist Church near Arlington finds it can be a portable meeting place, a camper for small groups, a truck to haul clothing and furniture, a mobile hotel on mission trips, a moving van, and an extension department for the Sunday School, the Rev. Roy Buckalew reports.

The old school bus, reworked and repainted by men in the church, is well-known, particularly by the children who live in a wide radius of the suburban church. Dedicated workers use it regularly for meetings of "The Good News Clubs," which seek to promote the Gospel through a regular program of recreation, handwork, memory work, music, illustrated Bible study, and direct evangelism.

THE BUS goes out to the same location each Monday. Then on Tuesday, it's at another location where groups of homes or house trailers have a large population of children.

By removing a section of the rear seats and rearranging others, the bus affords a compact but comfortable classroom area where Good News Club members gather. It has been wired to provide electric heating as well as to operate visual aid equipment and lighting for night meetings.

The Monday club, with John King, a barber, and his wife, Rita, as sponsors, was started March 15 of this year and already has 20 members. The Tuesday club began last October and numbers 25. Mrs. Tom Gammon and Mrs. A. J. Stewart work with the Tuesday group. Plans call for the start of other clubs for teenagers soon, Buckalew says.

Turn to Bus on Page 5

Mission



News

Encouraging Lay Men, Women and Youth to Missionary Activity

Volume 2

ACTION FOR CHRIST, INC. — JUNE, 1971

Number 1

BUSINESSMEN, DOCTOR, STUDENT, MINISTER — ALL ANSWER

10-Man Team Reaches 700

DALLAS

The mighty Rio Grande still lures men to its sandy shores and majestic cliffs much as it did Hernando Cortez and his Spanish Conquistadores over 400 years ago.

But, while Cortez searched for golden cities of immense wealth, a recent expedition of Texas Baptist men went in search of people with immense needs.

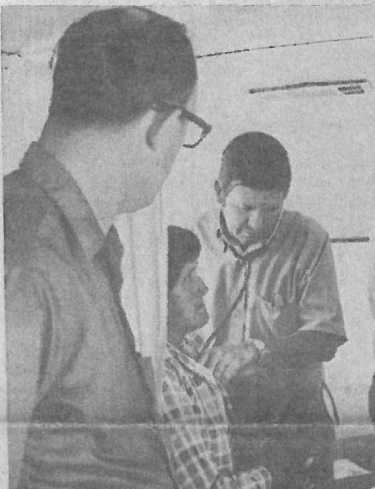
Leaders for this mission action thrust were Al Morgan, associate pastor of First Baptist Church of Oak Cliff in Dallas, and Dr. Jimmy D. Johnson, Dallas physician and member of Kiestwood Baptist Church.

The two men led eight others in a four-night, three-day effort that touched the lives of some 700 Mexicans living in the Redford community, 20 miles southeast of Presidio.

The ten-man crew was sponsored by the Baptist Men's organization of the Oak Cliff Church. It included businessmen Grady Hines, Bill Reese, John Woolard, Steve Gann, Herbert Diaz, Joe Reed and Midwestern College student Ray Graf and Johnson's son, Steven.

Morgan pointed out that the laymen on the trip discovered new ministries.

"For the first time, these laymen used their talents under different circumstances," he noted. "For example, Reese made an excellent pharmacologist with his



organizational ability," Reese heads up a local electronic firm.

Hines, a sales representative, gave inoculations publicly for the first time and taught the other men the tricks of the trade. An auditor for Travelers Insurance, Woolard cooked for the crew — without hearing a complaint. Gann, who owns his own plumbing company, was back-up man for all operations.



RIVER WORK — Dr. Jimmy D. Johnson examines a woman in the Big Bend Association's mobile clinic (left picture) while Lloyd Conner, pastor of First Baptist Church of Marfa, looks on. At right, layman Herbert Diaz witnesses to a man who lives along the river.

Graf, a pre-med student at Midwestern, assisted Dr. Johnson on most of the trip. This Baptist young man will be doing research in the summer at M. D. Anderson Tumor and Cancer Clinic, Houston.

Dr. Johnson observed that there were near 1,000 patient-treatments, meaning that many persons received inoculations from team members in addition to being examined and treated by the physician.

"A larger percentage of the ailments were the results of local conditions," said Johnson, noting the effects of prolonged exposure to sun and wind.

"I wish I knew someone who

would donate 10,000 pairs of sunglasses," he added. "Those people really needed them."

Morgan, former member of the public relations staff of the Baptist General Convention of Texas, has made many trips to the river. He served with the BGCT when initial surveys were made leading to a decision to promote the river ministry as a project for the involvement of all Texas Baptist churches.

"Our trip had a strong spiritual emphasis as well as medical," Morgan said. "Through interpreters like Mr. Diaz, we were able to share the Gospel message with several hundred persons."

In unique action after the trip, the Oak Cliff church approved for membership a Mexican woman baptized by Morgan in the Rio Grande. It was, perhaps, the first action of its kind anywhere since she was accepted by proxy, and "most likely will never even see

Turn to Team on Page 5



GOOD NEWS CLUBBERS — Jesus walks on the waters of the Sea of Galilee on the flannelboard presentation being arranged by John King, a barber, for members of the Good News Club which meets each Monday in the specially equipped bus operated by

Tate Springs Baptist Church near Arlington. Mr. and Mrs. King work with the youngsters each Monday, while other workers take the bus to other locations for meetings with other children during the week.

REV JOHN L LA NOUE
BAPTIST GENERAL CONVENTION OF TEXAS
BAPTIST BUILDING
DALLAS TX 75201 703 No. 2nd

Team Aims To Go Back

Continued From Page 1

our church building," Morgan said.

"Our people were thrilled with the baptism," continued Morgan, who pointed out that the single baptism may "well pave the way for a local evangelical witness in that area."

He noted, too, that future mission trips are anticipated on a regular basis by men in the church with strong emphasis on the medical and evangelistic opportunities.

"We hope to send a team every other month if possible," he continued. "Much of it depends on enlisting doctors who are willing to give a couple of days of their time for this type of work."

He stressed, too, the need for people to help support such a mission venture in the name of Christianity, not just denomination.

"All of the medicines must be donated or purchased. Sometimes doctors will supply some of the needs, but most often such projects depend on lay individuals interested in helping others," he said.

The trip was coordinated through Lloyd Conner, pastor, First Baptist Church, Marfa, in cooperation with Big Bend Association missionary Raymond Sanders. The association provided both a dormitory bus and medical mobile clinic.

All of these people were engaged in every type of job — even to repairing a faulty water cooler in the medical unit — that was necessary to accomplish the task of ministering to the local populace.



ALL ABOARD — Some of the children who attend the Tate Springs Baptist Church "Good News Club" meetings are waiting at the church on the day their group meets and ride with the sponsors to the site where the bus stops to hold the meetings. Others are picked up along the way, and still others walk to the parking area. The rear of the bus is cleared of seats to provide a mobile meeting room for the club sessions.

Bus Kept Busy

Continued From Page 1

"WE REALIZE the need for an additional church in our area to serve the increasing number of new residents, but until we are able to provide another church, we are aiming this effort at the areas where there are populous pockets of unreached people — unreached by any church," the pastor says. "Nearly all of the children in our clubs never attend church and neither do their parents," he revealed.

On other days, the bus usually stays busy in other activities, hauling items for the needy, carrying people to meetings, and for weekend trips to conferences and camps. It will shortly be put to

use each Sunday morning on a regular pickup route.

"We have seen the need, we have the bus, and we have people willing to work at the job. When we first conceived this idea of taking our bus ministry to the people we had not heard of it before. Since then, we have learned there is a church in Florida using a bus in this way in a ministry to trailer parks.

"The Lord has blessed us by providing our bus. We believe it is being used to bless the lives of others," the pastor sums up. —Charles Hawkes is managing editor of the Arlington Citizen-Journal.

'PERSONAL TOUCH' KEY TO PROJECT

BISHOP, TEXAS

Every Thursday between the hours of 9 and 11 CARE Center in Bishop is humming with activity.

Organized by the members of First Baptist Church of Bishop's Baptist Women's Organization, the center is a ministry to the ladies of the church's Latin Mission.

Some two years ago, the women of the church felt the need of more personal work with the ladies of the Latin Mission. Under the direction of Mrs. Kenneth Miller, Mrs. Gilbert Bishop, and Mrs. Charles Thomas, a building was secured for the meeting place.

Men of the church painted and made repairs needed to make the building comfortable. Members of the church donated sewing machines, carpeting, heaters, fans, tables, and other supplies needed to get the work started.

During the Thursday morning sessions, classes are conducted in Bible study, mission action, cooking, sewing, and crafts. Children of the mothers are taught in sessions carried on at the same time as the ladies' classes.

An auxiliary of the church's Baptist Women's Organization, the Sewing Group, is also active these days. The 35 members make use of their sewing talents on such projects as piecing quilts, quilting, goodie boots for the nursing home, double knit lap pads for the nursing home, and felt decorations for the church Christmas tree.

Working under the supervision of Mrs. J. T. Taxter, chairman, and Mrs. E. E. Hensley, assistant

chairman, the sewing group has another unique project: giving each lady who becomes a member of First Baptist Church of Bishop a handmade apron. The aprons have large pockets in which Sunday School, Church Training, WMU, and other materials are placed for the new family.

Pan American Men To Meet in 1972 In South America

YAZOO CITY, MISS.

The second Congress of the Pan American Union of Baptist Men will be held in Cali, Colombia, July 17-22, 1972.

The Pan American Union of Baptist Men is a fellowship of Baptist laymen open to all conventions and all countries in the Western Hemisphere. Its purpose is to: (1) develop good relations among all the Baptist men in the Western Hemisphere, (2) stimulate the churches to use Baptist men in missionary and evangelistic work, and (3) sponsor a Pan American Congress of Baptist Men in 1972, and every five years thereafter.

PAUBM was organized as an outgrowth of the Crusade of the Americas by 600 laymen representing 26 countries, meeting in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in July of 1968.

Owen Cooper, Yazoo City layman, is president. Laymen interested in attending this meeting should write: Pan American Union of Baptist Men, Box 388, Yazoo City, Miss. 39194.



WHO SAID IT HURTS? — Grady Mines, Dallas layman, took his turn administering injections to the residents of the Redford area under supervision of Dr. Johnson. Other laymen shared this job, also took turns in registering patients.

Throw Us A Line, Please

To keep from drowning in a sea of debts, we need the "life raft" of your financial support. Though we would welcome them, we have no financial underwriters and must depend upon your contributions to the cost of publishing MISSION ACTION NEWS and meeting a small administrative expense.

You can help by making a tax-deductible contribution of any size — or by asking your church to support us as a regular budget item.

So, if you can provide a small "life raft" check (please note we carefully avoided using "rubber"), you will help keep us afloat — and make our creditors happy.

Clip and Mail

Gentlemen:

I am interested in the work of ACTION FOR CHRIST, INC., and/or its associated laymen's organizations. Please send me additional details of:

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| ☐ Voting shareholder in ACTION FOR CHRIST, INC. | ☐ Ham Radios for Christ | ☐ Wings for Christ of Texas, Inc. |
| ☐ Mission Action News | ☐ Builders for Christ | ☐ Amigos Internacionales, Inc. |
| ☐ Computers for Christ | ☐ Skills Catalog Questionnaire | ☐ Missionary Millionaires |
| ☐ Mobile Medical-Dental Clinics | ☐ Lay Witness Mission | ☐ Texas Laymen Crusades |

- ☐ I have a story of a lay activity. Please send an Activity Reporting Guide.
☐ I am enclosing \$_____ for the work of ACTION FOR CHRIST, INC.

Please send a copy of MISSION ACTION NEWS (use additional sheet for others) to:

Name _____	Name _____
Street or Box _____	Street or Box _____
Town _____ State _____ ZIP _____	Town _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Comments:

My Name is _____

Address _____

Street or Box

Town _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Clip and Mail



Send to ACTION FOR CHRIST, INC., Box 613, Arlington, Texas 76010

Clip and Mail